



Danish House Society

Reports - News

Scandinavian Community Centre



Volume XIX, Issue 2

Summer 2018

President's Report

May 2018

Judging by the weather so far this spring it looks like we might be blessed with some sunshine for the Midsummer Festival this year. Scandinavian Folklore is the theme for this year's Festival, so maybe some nisse will come and volunteer there time because we can always use the extra help. If you have any nisse in your family thinking of applying for one of the DHS scholarships encourage them to volunteer as it will add points to their application.



Now speaking of scholarships, the deadline of June 30th is coming up fast, so don't wait until the last minute to get those applications in. Once again this year the award night will be held as part of Kro Aften in September when Danish House together with our partners the Danish-Canadian Community Centre of BC will again award ten \$1,200 and two special \$2,400 scholarships.

It was mentioned to me at the May Kro Aften by several members that attended the Royal Danish Guards' Queen's Birthday Party in April how much they enjoyed the evening. The food was excellent, the band was fantastic and the young tambours that came over from Denmark performed superbly. DHS is a co-sponsor of this event and even though there was a small financial loss, this is an event that DHS will continue to support as long as the Guards are willing and able to continue hosting it.

Another event worth attending is the upcoming Grundlovsfest picnic here at the Centre on Sunday June 3rd. His Excellency Ambassador Abrahamsen will make his final visit to the Centre before going back to Denmark.

One more item to take note of, the AGM was held in April and all the board members up for re-election were elected by acclamation, and all of the proposed bylaw changes were approved as well. There is no change to the directors filling the Executive positions. Mik Petersen our August BBQ steak master was elected to take the place of Jack Larsen who felt it was time to step down. Thank You Jack for your service and welcome to the board Mik.

Once again on a sad note, I have to report that Danish House, and the Tuesday gang that does so much of the work around the Centre, has lost a very valuable member, Borge Nielsen. For those of you who did not know this wonderful, quiet but friendly and very respectful man, Borge was the husband of Solvejg Nielsen who is the resident DHS ticket seller that greets everyone when they enter the lounge at Kro Aften. We will all miss you Borge. Ære være hendes minde! Our heartfelt condolences to Solvejg and family.

Ed Kuhlman, DHS President

23rd Annual *Scandinavian* MIDSUMMER FESTIVAL

JUNE 23 & 24
Scandinavian Folklore

Family fun for Everyone!!
"Ember Skies" 19+ Youth Dance
June 22nd ~ 8pm -1am

Mouth-watering Scandinavian Food
Carlsberg Beer Garden, a Troll Forest
Viking Village with Real Vikings
Wife Carrying Contest
Kids Lego Display
Facepainting

Music and dance entertainment
throughout the whole weekend
and much more.

Midsummer Festival Lottery
Win one of six Cash Prizes!
First Prize \$3,000 !!

Tickets: \$10 at the gate.
Children under 16 free.

Scandinavian Centre
6540 Thomas Street, Burnaby

Support Danish House by purchasing your
Midsummer Raffle Tickets in the Danish tent.

A quarterly newsletter from Danish House

Calendar of Events: "What's on at the Centre"



June 2018

June 1 - 6:30pm (DHS)

"Kro Aften" Club Night

June 3 - 11:00am (DHS)

DCCC Grundlovsfest Constitution Day Picnic

June 8 - 12:00 Noon (SCCS)

Scandinavian Seniors Lunch 55+

June 13 - 6:00pm (SCCS)

Scandinavian Business Club Dinner

June 14 - 9:00am (SCCS)

Bridge Tournament

June 22 - 8:00pm (SCCS)

Ember Skies 19+ Midsummer Festival Kick-Off

June 23-24 Gates open 10:00am (SCCS)

Midsummer Festival

July 2018

July 6 - 6:30pm (DHS)

"Kro Aften" Club Night

August 2018

August 19 - 4:00pm (DHS)

Annual DHS Family BBQ

DHS ANNUAL FAMILY BBQ

SUNDAY, AUGUST 19, 2018

4:00pm - 9:00pm

Door prizes and Raffle Prizes

Beef Steak or Salmon Fillet, Corn-on-the-Cob

Green Salad or Potato Salad

Assorted Pies and Ice Cream

Hot Dogs and Pop for Kids

CASH BAR BEER AND WINE



\$20.00 per Person (Kids Free)

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

All 2018 DHS MEMBERSHIP dues were due and payable by the deadline of December 31, 2017. If you have not already paid your 2018 dues, please do so ASAP. I will again be in the Danish Room at the June 1st Kroaften and available to process membership renewals for anyone who would like to renew their membership at that time. Any new memberships would also be welcomed.

You can also mail your cheque payable to:

Danish House Society
6540 Thomas Street,
Burnaby, B. C. V5B 4P9

Membership Dues are:

One Year Family \$40.00

One Year Individual \$25.00

Lifetime \$300.00

I am pleased to report that the following new memberships have been approved by the Board of Directors since the last newsletter:

Family Memberships

| | |
|---|-------------------|
| Bonnie Schultz-Lorentzen & Keith Soltman | Bellingham |
| John & Martha Olesen | Chilliwack |
| Debbie and Steven Denault | Chilliwack |
| Ole and Yvonne Pii | Coquitlam |

Individual Memberships

| | |
|----------------------|------------------|
| Corbin Jensen | Vancouver |
|----------------------|------------------|

A Big Welcome to All!

Respectfully submitted by,

Ebba Grey,

Membership Committee

DONATIONS TO DANISH HOUSE SOCIETY

February, March, April 2018

Names of Donors:

General Donations:

Frits Dahl; Kate Dickieson; Tina Taylor; Chris Jensen;

Total Donations: \$ 220.00



Respectfully submitted by:

Else Rollke, Treasurer

GRUNDLOVSDAG



The Danish-Canadian Community Centre
invites you with family and friends, young and old,
to
Danish Constitution Day "Grundlovsdag"



Sunday June 3, 2018
10:30am to 4:00pm
Scandinavian Centre

10:30am *Arrive with your picnic baskets to our settings of tables and chairs in the tented area on the grounds of the Scandinavian Centre.*

10:50am *Feel free to take a seat on the stage*

11:00am **Church Service with Pastor Susanne Rasmussen**
Musical trio Janet Mowatt, Erik Hougaard and Liva Hougaard.

Danish Ambassador to Canada Niels Boel Abrahamsen will give a Grundlovstale

(The Ambassador is accompanied by Danish Honorary Consul in BC, Ann-Britt Everett.)

12:30pm *Enjoy your picnic baskets. We do not sell anything at this event. There will be some ice cream and Danish pastry available and even a few lawn toys for the children!*

1:45pm *Return to the stage for entertainment*
Tivoli Singers & Runeberg Chorus

2:00pm **Gammel Dansk folk band and the Scandinavian Dancers**

Enjoy the rest of the afternoon!

For further information please call or email President Margit Hansson at 604 574-8833 or hansson@telus.net or Secretary Ed Kuhlman at 604 942-8499 or kuhlman@shaw.ca.

Acknowledgment: Thank you to anyone including the Danish House Society for assisting in the setup.



**DANISH HOUSE SOCIETY
& THE DANISH-CANADIAN COMMUNITY CENTRE OF BC
AND
THE ESTATE OF RUTH & JOHANNES PEDERSEN
SCHOLARSHIPS**

ATTENTION! STUDENTS AND SCHOLARS

Ten \$1,200 scholarships will be awarded by the Danish House Society and the Danish-Canadian Community Centre of B. C. as well as two \$2,400 scholarships that have been designated in appreciation of funds willed to the Danish House Society by the Estate of Ruth and Johannes Pedersen. A total of twelve scholarships will be awarded to the top 12 students. To apply and subsequently qualify you must meet the following criteria:

- a) Be of Danish heritage *and* a member or connected through family to member (*name please for verification*) of the Danish House Society or the Danish-Canadian Community Centre of B. C. If you are *not* of Danish heritage you may still qualify if you are a member or connected through family to a member of the Danish House Society or the Danish-Canadian Community Centre of B. C.
- b) Be a resident of British Columbia working towards a degree or diploma in an accredited post-secondary institution such as a college or university or at an institution certified by Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC) to get or improve skills in an occupation. Evidence of registration in such an institution is required along with a **transcript of latest marks and studies**.
- c) Be of good character and provide written references from a high school or college administrator, and at least **two current references** including an employer, if applicable.

Application *must* be made by a **hand-written letter** giving your reasons for requesting the scholarship and describing your personal interests, hobbies, goals, dreams, financial need, and volunteer experience. Participation as a volunteer in Danish House Society activities should be noted. All of the Scholarships will be awarded in September 2018.

To be considered for a 2018 DHS/DCCC, and Estate of Ruth and Johannes Pedersen Scholarship, your application and all relevant information (**including your phone number, postal and e-mail addresses**) must be submitted by **June 30th, 2018** to:

Danish House Society - Scholarship
6540 Thomas Street
Burnaby, BC V5B 4P9

Please note: Each applicant is limited to receiving no more than three DHS/DCCC or Estate of Ruth & Johannes Pedersen scholarships. **For further information please contact any of the DHS/DCCC scholarship committee members:**

Dave Buchmann (604) 760-7705
Ella Wolder (604) 530-5083
Annette Lauridsen (604) 533-5719
Margit Hansson (604) 574-8833



DOGWOOD LODGE 179

VANCOUVER - CANADA

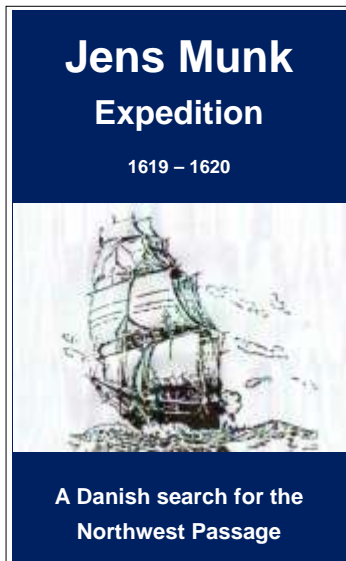
Join our Lodge.

Danish Sisterhood Canadian Lodge 179 is a non-profit organization with the mission to strengthen, maintain and preserve the Danish heritage and traditions for future generations. If you like to socialize and participate in various events, we welcome not only Danes but all Nationalities as members.

Members meet at **Carl Mortensen Manor, 4035 Norland Avenue, Burnaby, V5G 4T7** (Entrance on Kincaid) every 3rd Thursday of the month at **5:30 p.m.** (except July, Aug. & Dec.) For more details visit: www.danishsisterhood.ca or contact lodge179@danishsisterhood.ca

JENS MUNK'S JOURNEY 1619-20 A 400-YEAR COMMEMORATION OF AN EPIC EXPEDITION

JENS MUNK COMMEMORATIVE STEERING COMMITTEE – INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT



On May 9, 1619, the Danish sea-captain Jens Munk and 64 crew set sail from Copenhagen across the North Atlantic in two small royal ships, the frigate *Unicorn* and the sloop *Lamprey*, under the auspices of Christian IV, King of Denmark-Norway. The Expedition's mission was to find the Northwest Passage to China and India. King Christian's objective was to demonstrate and proclaim Denmark's rightful and historic membership among the principal trading and seafaring nations of western Europe. The Expedition was almost 200 years before the more famous Franklin and other expeditions in the mid-1800's (British), and only a few years after the discovery of Hudson Bay and Champlain's founding of what is now Quebec City (New France).

The mission failed. The Munk expedition made valiant attempts to penetrate the ice of the Arctic, sailing as far north as 69 degrees latitude in Davis Strait, and in September fought its way into Hudson Bay and became the first European expedition to explore western Hudson Bay. The expedition spent the winter caught in the ice near the mouth of what is now the Churchill River, near what is now Churchill, Manitoba. Only three members of the Expedition, including Munk, survived the winter. The rest died of starvation, the fierce winter, and of scurvy. On July 16, 1620 these three sailed for home aboard the *Lamprey* eastward again across the North Atlantic, two months later on September 20 almost inconceivably reaching Bergen in what is now Norway, and then sailed on to Copenhagen.

On December 20, 1620 Jens Munk was home. Life away had been hard. Coming home was even harder. His wife had found a new lover; the King demanded that Munk go back to "Munck's Winterhaven" to fetch the *Unicorn*. Further, the King ordered that a group of settlers should go with him and establish a Danish Colony. However, it did not happen. The main reason probably was that no one wanted to crew with Munk after the first fiasco. Also, no settlers willing to endure the journey could be found in all of the kingdom – despite great rewards offered to lure them to the adventure.

What happened then? Christian IV entered the European War (The Thirty Years' War) and soon forgot about the northern trade route. He deployed Jens Munk as his loyal naval officer in several sea blockades and battles. In 1628, Munk was wounded and brought back to Pilestræde in Copenhagen, where he died on June 28.

Munk's original handwritten journal from the expedition is today kept in Copenhagen's Royal Library. It was set to print in 1624 under the Latin title *Navigatio Septentrionalis – Navigating the Northern Waters*. The journal was translated into English in 1897 by C.C.A. Gosch and published by Haklyut Society, London, and titled *Danish Arctic Expeditions 1605-20*. The journal is available online at:

<https://archive.org/details/danisharcticexp00unkngoog>

It was also published in Canada in 1980 by the Royal Ontario Museum, edited by W.A. Kenyon as *The Journal of Jens Munk 1619-20*.

The years 2019-2020 will therefore mark the 400th Anniversary of the Jens Munk Expedition. The Federation of Danish Associations in Canada has established a Jens Munk Commemoration Steering Committee, with members from the Federation and others from across Canada, and with Carl Sorensen, Edmonton as chair, to work towards Manitoba and Canada, and Denmark, and people of Danish and Norwegian background in Canada, marking and celebrating the 400th Anniversary of this significant event in Canadian history.

The Jens Munk Commemorative Steering Committee, established in 2017 by the Federation, is working to achieve appropriate commemoration of the journey, in 2019-2020. Among the projects being contemplated is to make Jens Munk's journal accessible through a reprint of the 1980 publication and through posting it on a special website.

Read more about the Jens Munk expedition and the work of the Jens Munk Commemorative Steering Committee in the Federation's 2018 Heritage Book, and also watch for further developments.

SCANDINAVIAN FOLKLORE

The theme of this year's Midsummer Festival is Scandinavian Folklore, which is the folklore of Norway Sweden, Finland, Denmark, Iceland and the Faroe Islands. Iceland and the Faroe Islands are not part of Scandinavia (although they are Nordic countries), but can nevertheless be regarded as Scandinavian in folkloric terms.

A large number of different mythological creatures from Norse mythology continue to live on in Scandinavian folklore, little affected by Christian beliefs, though the wicked ones at times find an ally in the Devil or have problems with Christian symbols. These beings could be scared by a piece of iron or steel, such as a strategically placed pair of scissors or a knife, or with salt and fire. The stories about the livings and doings of these beings, and their interaction with humans, constitute the major part of Scandinavian folklore. Even the helpful tomte, nisse, gårdbo or gårdbuk could turn into a fearsome adversary if not treated with caution and respect. Many of them blend into each other when their morals and/or place of residence are similar, and equally when one moves from one region in Scandinavia to another.

Perhaps most abundant are the stories about the race of trolls (Danish: trolde). Scandinavian trolls tend to be very big, hairy, stupid and slow to act. Any human with courage and presence of mind can outwit a troll, and those whose faith is strong can even challenge them to mortal combat. They are said to have a temperament like a bear - which are, incidentally, their favorite pets - good natured when they are left in peace, and savage when they are teased. Trolls come in many different shapes and forms, and are generally not fair to behold, as they can have as many as nine heads. Trolls live throughout the land, dwelling in mountains, under bridges, and at the bottom of lakes. While the trolls who live in the mountains are very wealthy, hoarding mounds of gold and silver in their cliff dwellings, the most dangerous trolls live in lonely huts in the forest. While few trolls have female trolls, trollkoner, as wives, most possess a regrettable tendency to spirit away beautiful maidens, preferably princesses, who are forced to spin by day and scratch the troll's head by night. The trolls have their own king, called Dovregubben, who lives in the Dovre Mountains with his court.



The *Nisse* or *tomte* (in the southern Sweden and Norway and Denmark) is a good "wight" who takes care of the house and barn when the farmer is asleep, but only if the farmer reciprocates by setting out food for the nisse and he himself also takes care of his family, farm and animals. If the nisse is ignored or maltreated or the farm is not cared for, he can sabotage a lot of the work on the farm to teach the farmer a lesson or two. Although the nisse should be treated with respect and some degree of kindness, he should not be treated too kindly. In fact, there's a Swedish story in which a farmer and his wife enter their barn in early morning and find the little grey old man brushing the floor. They see his clothing, which is nothing more than torn rags, so the wife decides to make him some new clothes; but when the nisse finds them in the barn he now thinks he is too elegant to perform any more farm labour and thus disappears from the farm. Nisser are also usually associated with Christmas and the yule time. It is normal that the farms may place bowls of rice porridge on the doorsteps in a similar manner that cookies and milk are put out for Santa Claus. In the morning the porridge would have been eaten. Some believe that the nisse brings the presents as well. A Nisse is said to be able to change his size between that of a 5-year-old child and a thumb, and also to have the ability to make himself invisible.

In Scandinavian folklore, dragons are commonly known as *lindworms*, monstrous serpents with or without hind legs. In Sweden, Norway and Denmark, they typically live in the ocean, and here tales of marine monsters appear to have the widest dissemination, although a famous specimen is also said to reside in the Swedish lake *Storsjön*. The Norwegian lake *Seljordsvatnet* is also famous for its claimed inhabitant, a serpent known as *Selma*. The coasts of Scandinavia are reportedly also haunted by the terrifying *Kraken*. Sea serpents, with their glowing eyes and long manes, are also prevalent in Scandinavian folklore, as well as their invisible kin the sea-whip.

Ellepiger (alder tree girls) are the most famous of the Ellefolket (the alder tree people) in Danish folklore. The girls dance around at night, luring many a young man to join them and to never be heard of again. They are beautiful but their backs are hollow.

Witches in Scandinavian folklore in particular are recognized by their long noses and cats, just as in other lands. There are at least three species of witch in this branch of folklore. *Trollkonor*, is a troll's wife who possesses magical powers. They greatly resemble their ugly troll husbands. The "classic" witch lives alone in a little cottage in the woods. She dabbles in magic, has a long nose and black cats, and brews mysterious potions. If one calls her "Mother" and presents her with tobacco and other gifts, she will do a favour in return. This species of witch can summon all the birds and all the animals in the woods; she can quell the north wind; and she will give one advice in an emergency. The third kind of witch is the most dangerous, as they thrive under the power of evil. They appear to be ordinary women during the day who attend church and keep house, but at night they ride through the air, bewitching people and their livestock. They also frequently change themselves into animals in order to trick humans.

There are other folklore creatures such as Nattmara, Huldra, Elves, Fossegrimen, Nøkken and Mermaids.

The **Ladies Auxiliary**
invites you to a
Country Fair
at the **Dania Home**



Sunday June 17th, 2018
from **11:30am-300pm**
Dania Home: 4175 Norland Avenue., Burnaby

Enjoy country music and festivities for the whole family!!

- Baked Goods • Hotdogs & Ice Cream
- Warm ableskiver with jam!!
- Carnival Games
- Lots of prizes to be won!!
- & More!!



Fun Fair



“KRO AFTEN” ! BRING YOUR FRIENDS

This fun-filled Danish House Event is held the **first Friday of every month, except August and December.**

Enjoy a fine selection of open-faced sandwiches (\$5 each), dessert and coffee or tea. Wash it down with snaps and Carlsberg beer on tap. Meet at about 6ish to get your meal tickets and table number - **smørrebrød** is served at **7 p.m.**

BY RESERVATION ONLY

Put your order in by Monday, the week of the Kro Aften Friday. This very popular event fills up quickly so be sure to book early!

TO RESERVE

Send Ebba an e-mail at ebba@shaw.ca and receive the menu a week in advance. Order must be e-mailed to Ebba by the Monday before the Kro Aften. Phone Ebba at 604-990-3550

Please note that non-members will be charged a \$2.00 per person surcharge to attend.

DANISH LANGUAGE CLASSES

Fall session will start again Sept. 18th, 19th, and 20th.

You may register for fall session by emailing me in early September

: annette.h.lauridsen@gmail.com

DANISH HOUSE SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION:

Thank you for your interest in joining and supporting DHS. Please make your cheques payable to:
“Danish House Society, 6540 Thomas St., Burnaby, BC V5B 4P9

Name(s): _____

Street: _____

City: _____ Province: _____ Postal Code: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____ Email: _____

I prefer to receive my newsletter by: Email Canada Post New Membership or Renewal

- Membership Dues: \$25.00 Individual Membership Due enclosed
 \$40.00 Family Membership Due enclosed
 \$100.00 Corporate/Organization Membership Due enclosed
 \$300.00 Lifetime (individual) Membership Due enclosed

TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$ _____



Danish House Society
6540 Thomas Street
Burnaby, B.C. V5B 4P9

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Phone: 604-294-2777

Website: www.scandinaviancentre.org/denmark

EXECUTIVE:

| | | | | |
|----------------|---------------|-------------------------|--------------|-----------------|
| President | Ed Kuhlman | Newsletter & SCCS Board | 604 942-8499 | kuhlman@shaw.ca |
| Vice-President | Peter Praegel | SCCS Board | 604 520-7078 | praegel@shaw.ca |
| Secretary | Ebba Grey | Membership & Kro Aften | 604 990-3550 | ebba@shaw.ca |
| Treasurer | Else Rollke | European Festival | 604 620-1632 | rrollke@shaw.ca |

DIRECTORS-AT-LARGE:

| | | | | |
|----------|-------------------|---------------------------------|--------------|-------------------------------|
| Director | Dave Buchmann | Cultural Events & SCCS Board | 604 760-7705 | davebuchmann@hotmail.com |
| Director | Paul Christensen | Cultural Events | 604 944-9686 | ppchristensen@shaw.ca |
| Director | Keith Colby | | 604 614-5446 | kcolby@shaw.ca |
| Director | Gunnar Jensen | | 604 291-7439 | |
| Director | Annette Lauridsen | Language Classes & Scholarships | 604 533-5719 | annette.h.lauridsen@gmail.com |
| Director | Inge Lyth Nielsen | | 604 524-3004 | elsinore@telus.net |
| Director | Ingelise Nielsen | | 778 294-7284 | inielsen@shaw.ca |
| Director | Mik Petersen | | 604 591-1415 | mik.petersen@telus.net |

Newsletter Editor: Ed Kuhlman

Please forward your ads and reports to kuhlman@shaw.ca.

Deadlines for submissions of quarterly ads are February 1, May 15, August 15, and November 15. If you wish to place an ad in the newsletter, payment requested is in the form of a donation to the annual DHS Auction or a cash donation to DHS. **If you would like your newsletter by e-mail instead of print, please let us know** Thank You.



DHS Member:

Borge Nielsen
July 28, 1932
April 15, 2018

**Although it's difficult today to see beyond the sorrow,
may looking back in memory help bring comfort to
us tomorrow.**

**It is with sadness in our hearts that we say
goodbye to our friend.**

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Borge Nielsen on Sunday, April 15th at the age of 85. Borge was born in Orum (near Aarhus), Denmark and immigrated to Toronto, Ontario in 1955 where he met his loving wife of 59 years Solvejg (née Thygesen). They moved to Vancouver in 1959 where they raised their 3 children: Tina (Richard Pangrass), Erik (Rebecca Rankin) and Anne (Daniel Wood). Borge was also a devoted grandfather to 9 grandchildren: Michael (Corinn), Cloe, Graham, Emilia, Alyssa (Corey), Britte, Nicole, Mackenzie, Kirsten and 1 great grandchild, Henrik. Borge will be forever loved and deeply missed by his family and many friends.

He will also be very deeply missed by his family away from home, the Tuesday Gang at the Scandinavian Centre. Borge was a highly respected and valued volunteer at the Centre where he devoted many hours of his time helping to do the many jobs large and small that always seem to need doing. Thank You, Borge for your kindness, dedication and unswerving service. You were a beacon that always had a smile and a friendly hello for everyone.

**Our sincerest condolences go out to the
family of our lost friend!**

Next "Kroaften" Club Nights - June 1st, & July 6th, 2018